



MILWAUKEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE

320 – CANINES

GENERAL ORDER: 2008 - 50

ISSUED: October 27, 2008

EFFECTIVE: October 27, 2008

ACTION: Creates Standard Operating Procedure 320

320.00

PURPOSE/ POLICY

To establish policies and procedures for the use of the Neighborhood Task Force Canine Unit and the Vice Control Division's trained Detector Dogs of the Milwaukee Police Department. The primary objective is to utilize the Milwaukee Police Department canines to assist in the accomplishment of the goals and objectives of the Milwaukee Police Department.

320.05

ORGANIZATION OF THE CANINE UNIT

A. The Canine Unit consists of specially trained handlers and dogs. The Canine Unit shall be assigned to work out of the Neighborhood Task Force of the Neighborhood Policing Bureau and work such hours and duties as directed by the Chief of Police.

B. CANINE SUPERVISOR

1. One (1) Police Sergeant shall be designated the "Canine Supervisor" and shall coordinate the operations of the Canine Unit.

C. All assignments to the Canine Unit and the duration of such assignment shall be under the sole control of the Chief of Police.

320.10

ORGANIZATION OF THE DETECTOR DOGS

A. The Detector Dogs are certified to the U.S. Customs Service standards and assist in the location of controlled substances.

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Specially trained handlers are assigned to each dog.

B. The Detector Dogs are assigned to the Vice Control Division and supervised by a Police Lieutenant.

- C. All assignments to the Detector Dogs and the duration of such assignments shall be under the sole control of the Chief of Police.

320.15**GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF THE CANINE UNIT**

- A. The Canine Unit shall be utilized in a patrol capacity when not involved in a specific duty or assignment.
1. Unless exigent circumstances dictate otherwise, the Canine Unit shall be assigned specific patrol areas.
 2. As staffing levels permit, the Canine Unit should be utilized as a backup unit.
- B. The Canine Unit is intended to be supportive of all the operational components of the Department. Arrests made or evidence located as a result of the Canine Unit will be considered as having been accomplished by the requesting officer. The handler will be responsible for preparing any supplemental reports necessary documenting the actions of the Canine Unit.
- C. Requests for the use of the Canine Unit will comply with the following guideline:
1. Department Requests –Canine Unit On Duty: When the Canine Unit is on duty, Department personnel may request assistance of the unit through an on-scene supervisor who will respond and assess the situation and make the request for the Canine Unit to respond.
 2. Department Requests –Canine Unit Off Duty: The request for recall to duty of a canine team may be made by a District, Division, or Bureau shift commander via call-up protocol as follows:
 - a. Building Searches: Only in those cases where there is evidence of forced entry and there is substantial reason to believe that a person is concealed in a building.
 - b. Area Search/Scout: Felony cases and serious crimes only – The suspect must have been seen, a correct perimeter set, and the suspect contained.
 - c. Narcotics Detection: When reasonable suspicion of illegal narcotic activity based upon articulable facts is present, the canine may be called to establish probable cause. A request for the use of the Vice Control Division's Detector Dog shall be

made prior to requesting the Canine Unit of the Neighborhood Task Force.

- d. Missing/Lost Persons: Notify canine handler. Canine handler will advise if they can be of help.
- e. Tracking: If officer(s) feel the Canine Unit may aid in the investigation of an incident or that the suspect may still be in the area.
- f. Tactical Situations: Upon approval of the Neighborhood Task Force Commander or if deemed appropriate by a Tactical Enforcement Unit supervisor to aid in a search or for containment purposes.
- g. OTHER: The Canine Unit may also be utilized with proper authorization for specialized security assignments, specialized saturation patrol, tactical situations or any other activity as may be deemed appropriate by the Neighborhood Task Force Commander.

- D. The canine handler is trained in the tactical application of his or her dog prior to placement in an operational status. Canine handlers are able to assist in formulating plans of action for effective use of the canine. The canine handler in charge of the canine will be the primary decision maker as to whether the canine will be of use in a given situation and if so, how the canine will be deployed.
- E. Canines are the property of the Milwaukee Police Department and shall not be used for purposes outside of official duties or functions without explicit authorization from the Chief of Police.
- F. When the Canine Unit is requested for a track, field search, or evidence search, the area to be covered by the Canine Unit shall be kept as secure as possible to prevent contamination from human scent or other disturbances.

320.20

GENERAL PROCEDURES FOR USE OF DETECTOR DOGS (VCD)

- A. Detector Dogs shall be utilized to locate the aforementioned controlled substances in locations including, but not limited to, buildings, vehicles, luggage, currency or any other item suspected of containing controlled substances.
- B. Police members shall contact their shift commander when on the scene of a controlled substance investigation where the deployment of

a Detector Dog Officer (DDO) may be warranted. The shift commander shall report the details to a VCD supervisor.

- C. The determination for the need of a Detector Dog shall be made by a VCD supervisor, who shall dispatch a DDO to the scene.

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The facts surrounding the request for a Detector Dog shall be relayed to the DDO who, with the CIB supervisor, shall determine if a Detector Dog will be assigned to the call for service.

- D. Upon arrival at a call for service, the DDO shall make the final decision whether to deploy the Detector Dog, keeping in mind the safety of the animal at all times. The DDO shall report the decision not to use the Detector Dog to the supervisor who originally requested the DDO, as soon as practicable.
- E. DDO's shall adhere to prescribed procedures in conformity with U.S. Customs training when executing any search with Detector Dogs.
- F. Detector Dogs are intended to be supportive of all operational components of the Department. Arrests made or evidence located as a result of the Detector Dogs shall be considered as having been accomplished by the requesting member. The DDO shall be responsible for preparing any necessary supplemental reports, which document the actions of the Detector Dog.

320.25

DEPARTMENT MEMBER GUIDELINES FOR CANINES

- A. Other than within the parameters of formal or scheduled canine training, Department members shall not tease, mistreat or agitate any Department canine.
- B. The following are general rules of behavior when in the presence of a Department canine:
1. Department members shall not stand between the canine and its handler.
 2. If a working canine approaches a Department member, the member should not make any sudden moves. The member should remain still so as not to be mistaken as the subject of the search or incident.
 3. Officers shall arrest any person who intentionally hurts, attempts to hurt or interferes with the legal performance of duty of a known

Department canine. [NOTE: Wis. Stat. 951.18(1) Class A Misdemeanor – Class H Felony.]

4. Department members shall not direct any command to the canine unless so directed by the handler.
 5. Department members shall not attempt to entice a canine to disobey its handler, unless so instructed by the handler.
 6. Department members shall not enter any vehicle occupied by a canine unless so directed by the handler.
 7. Department members shall not attempt to touch, handle, pet, or feed the canine unless so directed by the handler.
 8. Absent exigent circumstances, officers shall not unholster weapons or check handcuffs in the presence of a canine unless so directed by the handler.
- C. Officers, who are present at a scene where a canine has been deployed, shall adhere to the following guidelines:
1. In most cases a field supervisor shall respond to the scene. They shall monitor the operation and ensure that Department policy is adhered to.
 2. When an area/building search is necessary, officers should contain the perimeter prior to and during a canine search. Only the handler and any backup officers expressly designated by the handler shall enter the area/building to be searched. The success of the canine team's efforts may depend on the dog's ability to pick up a scent. When requesting the canine team, it is therefore imperative that officers refrain from walking about the scene or handling objects /evidence at the scene. Unless exigent circumstances dictate otherwise, officers shall not enter the building/area to be searched until the Canine Unit arrives.
 3. Once a building search has been initiated, no one shall enter the building unless so instructed by the canine handler.
 4. When a canine team is requested to track a person who has abandoned an automobile, officers are not to enter that vehicle until after the arrival of the canine team and tracking has begun.
 5. Generally, the canine handler will dictate the search tactics to be utilized and coordinate the deployment of assisting personnel. In

situations wherein canine personnel are searching for a suspect(s) believed to be armed, handlers may elect to request personnel from the Tactical Enforcement Unit to assist during the search.

6. When a search is in progress, officers shall not engage in activity that may cause a distraction to the canine.
7. Officers who are requested to assist with the search by the canine handler shall take a position to the rear of the handler and shall carefully follow all instructions provided by the handler.
8. Once a handler has unleashed a canine, officers shall not attempt to affect an arrest until such time that the handler has called off the canine.
9. Officers who come between a fleeing suspect and a canine should remain as still as possible and not make any sudden movements.

320.30**CONTINGENCY CANINE PROCEDURE**

- A. In the event that a canine handler becomes incapacitated or injured at the scene of an event and is unable to control their canine, the officer at the scene shall:
 1. Contact another Department canine handler/team to report to the scene.
 2. As appropriate to the circumstances, contact a member of the canine handler's family to assist in controlling the canine. Attempt to control or contain the canine in a neutral area.



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